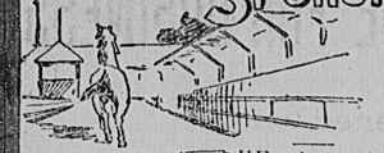


A BATTERY AND SPURS.



THE electric clock in the courthouse burned as brightly and yellow as the full moon at rise in the horizon.

Robert, on his way to the electric station, noticed his watch with satisfaction, because he had "wired" the clock, and it was his first piece of independent wiring.

A short, thick-set young man hurried after him, and overtook him.

"Halloo, Rob, is that you?" he called out.

"Hold on a minute."

"What is it?" asked Robert, stopping.

"Do you want a job that'll bring you five or ten extra?"

"Yes, I guess so; what is it?" questioned Robert.

"I'm to ride Longshanks at the Appleton races, and I'm bound to come in rinner, if it takes a 'lectric battery to do it."

"A what?" exclaimed Robert.

"Hu-sh," cried the young man, in a low voice; "Jim Flanders used one at the Stanford derby, and it brought him in O.K. every time."

"I don't understand," said Robert.

"Well, you see these, don't you?" and the young man held up a bright new air of spurs, "and this," and he drew a small battery from his pocket, "these are to be connected up together, so's the battery will send the 'lectricity over to the spurs, then when the spurs hit against the horse he's put right on his best speed in a hurry."

"Oh, yes," said Robert, "but that kind of work isn't in my line."

"Why not?" asked the young man; "ain't no harm, not a bit. If there was a rule 'gainst it, but here ain't."

"Are you sure?" said Robert.

The young man nodded emphatically.

"And it doesn't harm the horse?" Robert persisted.

"No more than it does to get a little 'ink of 'lectricity through you."

"Hum!" Robert reflected, with his eye upon the gold piece, which the young man displayed between his thumb and finger. It was ten dollars, and put with the ten he had saved could buy him the silver watch he had looked at in Harper's second-hand jewelry shop.

"All right," he said at last, "I'll fix up your spurs; come round to the station, Johnson."

"You allus was the fellow for me," said Johnson, following Robert at no pace.

They turned into a narrow back street to the electric station, and hurried up the stairs to the workshops, finding with a fine assortment of tools, and coils of insulated wire.

"This is my wire," Robert explained, "having out a few yards from a waste can in the corner; 'the manager said I could have it for an experiment I was making yesterday; now let me get a measure from your pocket to your reel."

The measure taken there was a snip, a quick twisting of the wire with the pincers, and the spurs and the battery were connected.

"Well, that is a neat job!" said Johnson. "Here's your money; put it out of the way, the boss is coming."

"But you said it wasn't any harm," murmured Robert, "if it's that sort of keep your money. I don't want it."

"It is a good bit to pay for ten minutes' work like this; believe I will keep it," and dropping it back into his pocket Johnson hurried away without attracting the boss' attention.

That night Robert did not rest well. He spurs kept clanking in his dreams, Johnson's gold piece seemed staring at him with a face the size of the electric clock's, and he awakened repeatedly with a shock as acute as if from Johnson's battery.

Dressing early the next morning he cut round to the livery stable, where he asked for Johnson.

"He went last night to the Appleton races. He's to ride Longshanks, yer now."

Robert "knew." He clutched a ten-dollar gold piece in his pocket, and hurried to the electric station.

It was only half-past six. The manager seldom reached there before eight.

Robert dusted the chairs and desk four times apiece, carboned the big incandescent lamp at the main entrance, and put new plugs into three lamps that were blown.

He had forgotten his breakfast, and his little brother came to tell him it was waiting for him.

"Tell mother to never mind. I'll be home after awhile, Josie," and he began sorting out a box of fresh electric supplies just in.

At last the manager came. Robert hastened to meet him.

"Mr. Tinker," he said, "may I have the morning off? I want to go to Appleton."

"To Appleton?" repeated the manager.

"Yes, sir," answered Robert.

"It isn't the races?"

"Oh, no sir; they're in the afternoon. I want to see some one before the races."

The manager looked at his favorite wirer sharply. Robert's honest eyes were troubled and his cheeks flushed.

"All right, my lad. You have never asked for a holiday before. Take the whole day, and the manager turned away with a sigh.

"A half day is plenty, sir. I'll be back by one o'clock. Thank you," and Robert, hat in hand, was already on his way to the railroad station.

It was but fifteen minutes' ride to Appleton. Robert was just in time to catch the first train, filled with a mer-

ry-go-lucky crowd, already on their way to the races.

Robert in the corner by the stove, dodged out the car door as soon as "Appleton" was called, and, outstripping the other passengers, reached the trotting park first.

A man came toward him, swinging his cane, as if he were a person in authority.

"Tain't open yet," he said to Robert.

"I only want to see James Johnson a moment; is he here?"

"He's over there," and the man pointed with his thumb to a row of stall-sheds.

Robert ran in the direction indicated, to find Johnson grooming Longshanks till his bay coat shone like damask.

"He's a beauty, ain't he?" was Johnson's salutation, showing no surprise at Robert's appearance. "Come after your gold ten?"

"No," said Robert, "but I've brought you another if you'll give up that electric spur business."

Johnson whistled, then broke into a laugh.

"Got to think it's wrong, have you?" he said, at length.

"Yes," replied Robert, "I do. I think it's cheating."

"Well, I'll tell you what I'll do," said Johnson, "since your conscience is so tender. I'll ride him round the track for a try of the 'lectric spurs, then I'll come right back, and you may unhitch the battery for all and good, and hand me the ten."

A relieved expression spread over Robert's face. What was his only gold piece, what was a silver watch, what, indeed, was anything to a clear conscience?

Johnson had already mounted, and clutching the bridle was off in a flash on bareback Longshanks.

Robert waited, and several others gathered to watch Johnson's preliminary dash, as they considered it.

High-mettled Longshanks, in perfect condition and fresh from the stall, flung his hoofs in the gayest spirits.

"It's well to take the edge off," said some one, as suddenly the horse broke his gait, and reared and plunged, as if stepping on needles.

It was the touch of the electric spurs he felt. Springing forward he came to so sharp a halt that Johnson was flung head first upon the turf.

Longshanks dashed on again, far around the smooth, rolled track, but Johnson did not stir.

Robert ran quickly toward him, while others hastened to catch the valuable horse before he had spent all his speed in his mad course round the race track.

"Are you hurt?" asked Robert, in a tremble, as he bent over Johnson.

"Yes, some," he answered, like one collecting his senses after a stunning blow. "Get the battery away quick before they find it."

In an instant Robert's nimble fingers had abstracted it, and snipping the wire that held it to the spur he plunged both wire and battery into his own pocket.

A surgeon hastened toward them. Robert pushed the promised gold piece into Johnson's pocket, then stood one side to make way for the surgeon.

"Poor fellow, he's off in a swoon," said the surgeon, having him lifted to a stretcher, "but he'll pull through."

With this verdict Robert hastened to take his train for home.

It was a month later when Johnson, his arm still in splints, entered the electric station.

"I'm going to set up a fruit-stall at the corner, Rob," he said. "Horse-racing hasn't brought me no good, and Rob—"

"Yes?"

"They've just made a rule 'gainst connecting up spurs with 'lectric batteries."

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PEOPLE.

'Mrs. Astor is said to never pay less than twenty-five dollars for a pair of shoes.

Mrs. PARAN STEVENS, the New York society woman, receives about one thousand cards to receptions during the year.

Mrs. JOHN BIDDULPH MARTIN (formerly Mrs. Victoria Woodhull), who, it may be remembered, was unsuccessful in her canvass for the presidency of this country last fall, is lecturing in London upon woman's rights.

The verbosity of Mr. Gladstone is proverbial, but it has never been more markedly put in evidence than when, wanting to answer a querist with a negative, he used these words: "I must reply with that brief and simple monosyllable: 'No.'"

According to Dr. Edward Everett Hale the late Dr. Andrew Peabody, while looking over some papers one day, discovered that he was forty thousand dollars richer than he had been the year before. Thereupon he wrote to the assessors of Cambridge and directed them to increase his tax bill.

Mrs. MARIA FARLEY-RIVES, who died at Charlottesville, Va., belonged to the Washington family on the maternal side. Her mother was Maria Ball Carter, who was the daughter of Betsy Lewis, who was the daughter of Betsy Washington, George Washington's only sister.

MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS.

A BROOKLYN editor says that Brooklyn is the greatest gum-chewing city in the world.

A TOAST given at a meeting of a woman's club in Springfield, Mo., was "The Men We Left Behind Us."

CALIFORNIA boasts of having shipped no less than 25,326 car loads of fruit outside the state during the past year.

Proprietors of the Pawtucket (R. I.) mills report that orders are so plentiful that they can't get out crinoline fast enough.

The daily supply of milk for the New York market amounts to about 19,000 cans of milk, 170 cans of condensed milk and 400 cans of cream.

In the town of Flint, Mich., a man and his wife are candidates for school trustees on opposing tickets, the man a republican and the wife a democrat.

TORACCO received its name of nicotiana in honor of Jean Nicot, envoy from the court of France to Portugal, who sent some seed to Catherine de Medicis.

A PAIR of young bisons have been placed by an English nobleman on his game preserves and several similar orders have been placed with American dealers.

HOUSEHOLD HELPS.

RUMPLED EGGS.—Beat six eggs with a teaspoonful of melted butter and a tablespoonful of sweet milk, put in a saucepan, set over the fire, and stir until thick; season with salt and pepper. Pour on buttered toast, and serve.

HARPER'S BAZAR.

FRIED POMMY.—Have a frying-pan with hot butter in it, and put in as much hominy as required for the meal. Pour over it a very little water or milk to keep it from burning on. Salt to suit the taste. Do not stir it while cooking, but leave the kernels whole.

BOSTON Budget.

BOILED RICE.—Look over and wash one pint of rice, add three pints of water and one teaspoonful of salt, boil over a quick fire for ten minutes, stirring it often, then pour off nearly all the water, cover closely, set on the back part of the stove and let steam fifteen minutes.—N. Y. Observer.

GRAHAM APPLE PIE.—One cup sour milk, half teaspoon soda, one cup of Graham flour, batter should be soft enough to level itself; fill a deep pie platter a third full; peel, quarter and core tart apples and place as many in the batter as it will hold; over the top sprinkle sugar and bake until brown.—Detroit Free Press.

YOUNG PEOPLE'S SOCIETIES.

THE March St. Andrew's Cross says: "Within six months a thousand new members have been admitted to the Brotherhood of St. Andrew."

THE Young Women's Christian association of Westbourne Park, England, conducts classes at a home for young women in dress cutting and making.

THE next British convention of the Young People's Society of Christian Endeavor will be held at Bradford, England, next June. It is expected that Dr. Clark will be present.

THE membership of the Young Women's Christian association of New York city is 827, of whom 277 are active. The association is in debt and an appeal for \$25,000 has been issued to enable it to meet the deficiency of last year and continue its beneficent work on the broad lines now laid out.

FARMING IN FOREIGN LANDS.

SHIPMENTS of sheep from Russia to France are being largely increased.

In East Prussia a larger area of land than usual is being cultivated to sugar beets, owing to the low price of grain.

THE area sown to cotton in India for the coming crop is 500,000 acres less than a year ago, the principal shortage being in late cotton.

IRELAND is improving the manufacture of its dairy products to such an extent that it is largely superseding Denmark in supplying the English market.—American Agriculturist.

CURRENT NOTES.

BEAUTIFUL spring swells the buds and the heads of spring peeps.—N. O. Picayune.

WHEN a pennurious young man marries an heiress it is not improper to allude to the event as a "tin" wedding.—Rochester Post.

ONLY a heartless man can watch a household's moving—to say nothing of participating therein—and be unmoved himself.—Pittsburgh Dispatch.

FAM VISITOR—"How can you tell an optimist from a pessimist?" The Artist—"The one says 'that's good' and the other 'that's not bad.'"—Life.

FINANCE AND COMMERCE.

New York Stock Market.

NEW YORK, April 14.—A much firmer tone characterized the dealings at the stock exchange to-day. Manhattan suffered a decline of 6 points to 169½, and Richmond Terminal securities broke badly on sales by holders who were disappointed by the announcement of Drexel, Morgan & Co. regarding the reorganization. This firm in question gave no particulars as to the basis on which the holders of these securities are to participate in the plan, but simply invited them to tender their stocks and bonds and they will name the conditions hereafter. Richmond Terminal common, dropped 1½ to 8½; preferred, 8½ to 30, and trusts 5½, 3½ to 44. The preferred recovered to 35 and the trusts to 45. Manhattan rallied from 159½ to 163½, reacted to 169½ and closed at 161½ bid.

These movements failed to have any appreciable influence on the general market, which steadily gained strength despite active opposition on the part of the bears. Missouri Pacific was at one time forced down from 50½ to 49½, but stock closed at 50½ against 49½ yesterday. There was good inquiry for Cordage, Sugar, Lead, Grangers, Coalers and Vanderbilts, which left off with net gains of 1½ to 2 percent. The market closed strong at or near the best figures of the day. Sales listed, 214,000; unlisted, 35,000. Gold shipments to Europe to-morrow will be a million and a quarter dollars.

Money on call easy, ranging from 4½ to 5, closing offered at 3. Prime mercantile paper, 6½ to 8. Sterling exchange firm. Posted rates, 487½. Government bonds firm. State bonds dull. Railroad bonds weak.

Closing bids—

Achinson, Topeka and Santa Fe... 33½
Baltimore and Ohio... 87½
Canada Pacific... 82½
Chesapeake and Ohio... 24½
Chicago, Burlington and Quincy... 95½
Chicago and Alton... 14½
Cotton Oil... 46½
Cotton Oil preferred... 80
East Tennessee... 34½
East Tennessee, preferred... 25
Erie... 21½
Erie, preferred... 46
Illinois Central... 102
Delaware, Lackawanna and West... 143½
Lake Erie and Western... 22½
Lake Erie and Western pref... 79
Lake Shore... 130½
Louisville and Nashville... 72½
Memphis and Charleston... 40
Michigan Central... 106
Missouri Pacific... 50½
Mobile and Ohio... 28
N. C. & St. L... 88
New York Central... 107
New Jersey Central... 118½
Norfolk and Western preferred... 32
Northern Pacific... 103½
Northern Pacific preferred... 40½
Northwestern... 112½
Northwestern preferred... 142
Pacific Mail... 21
Reading... 22½
Richmond Terminal... 82½
Rock Island... 82½
St. Paul... 77½
St. Paul preferred... 121
Silver Certificates... 83
American Sugar... 102½
Tennessee Coal and Iron... 97½
Tennessee Coal and Iron preferred... 100
Texas Pacific... 87½
Union Pacific... 307½
Wabash... 103½
Wabash preferred... 22½
Western Union... 93½
Alabama, class A... 102
Alabama, class B... 106
Alabama, class C... 95
Louisiana consols... 94½
North Carolina 48... 100
North Carolina 68... 123
South Carolina Browns... 97
Tennessee olds... 65
Tennessee, new set... 101½
68... 100
58... 100
38... 75½
Virginia... 50
68... 50
Ex-mat. coup... 35
Consols... 50
United States... 113½
48, regular... 113½
48, coupons... 113½
28... 90½

Chicago Markets.

CHICAGO, April 14.—Leading futures ranged as follows:

WHEAT—Op'g. Cl'g.
April... 78½ 78½
May... 80½ 79
July... 79 76½

CORN—Op'g. Cl'g.
April... 40½ 40½
May... 40½ 41
July... 42½ 42½

OATS—Op'g. Cl'g.
May... 28½ 28½
June... 28½ 28½
July... 27½ 28½

MESS PORK—Op'g. Cl'g.
May... 18 95 17 22½
July... 17 12½ 17 42½
September... 17 00 16 62½

LARD—Op'g. Cl'g.
May... 10 10 10 12½
July... 10 17½ 10 22½
September... 10 25 10 35

SHORT RIBS—Op'g. Cl'g.
May... 9 50 9 67½
July... 9 57½ 9 70
September... 9 62½ 9 72½

Produce and Merchandise.

NEW YORK, April 14.—Market dull, about steady; low grades scarce, firm. Winter wheat low grades, 2.10 to 2.55; patents, 3.85 to 4.25; Minnesota class, 3.20 to 3.50; patents, 4.25 to 4.75. Southern flour dull,